trates. The clearing of these channels should also be taken under Government supervision, lengths being marked off for the respective raiyats as tank bunds are marked off for turfing and maintenance, and the raiyats' liability enforced in each case. At present the interests of the more distant lands are neglected.

Dewan's reply.—The Public Works Department are grading and fixing pipe sluices in main channels under tanks where these are of magnitude (as under Madak tank). Similar facilities can also be afforded elsewhere if the raiyats agree to pay for them. But in all cases the raiyats must themselves maintain these channels in good order, apportioning the entire length among themselves according to custom. Liability according to such customary division we can enforce, as is done under the orders of October 1873 in the case of tank bunds. When disputes arise because the Mamul is not known, we have to enquire and ascertain and, if necessary, make a fresh settlement and record it. Supply of water also by turns or otherwise should be according to custom. Where local officers in any individual case do not enforce these principles, complain by petition and redress will be granted. In regard to Nirgantis they cannot be expected to do their duties without remuneration. It does not seem to be generally known that Nirgantis have a legal claim to Miras which Revenue officers are bound to enforce. The representations in the course of this discussion have come chiefly from the Tumkur District. It is unfortunate that the Deputy Commissioner is not present. He will be instructed.

[*Note.*—Individual cases of tanks in Tumkur District were mentioned, and it was members from the Tumkur District that chiefly complained in this matter.]

Subject No. 22.

Irrigation cess on lands irrigated by private wells.

Summary of discussion.—Irrigation cess should not be levied on lands irrigated by private wells.

Dewan's reply.—The cess ought not to be levied on what are called Kushki Bagayet lands, *i. e.*, dry lands irrigated by private wells. But it is payable on lands classed as wet and irrigated by wells under tanks or other Government sources of water-supply. Returns from Districts have been called for and the subject is under disposal by Government.

Subject No. 23.

Weed clearing in River Channels.

Summary of discussion.—At present raiyats are required to clear weeds in River channels, while the task of removing silt devolves on the Public Works Department. As there is no equitable division of raiyats' liability, the poorer or the less influential raiyat or he who has some status to lose is harassed more than others. Oftentimes raiyats are required to go long distances to clear the weeds. In the result work is ill done and not finished in proper time. Either the head sluice has to be kept closed longer than usual, in which case the out-cry is universal, or if water be let into the channel,

the channel gets choked and breaches. To repair these breaches the channel has to be closed, often when water is most needed. Standing crops suffer in consequence. Altogether the system is very troublesome. Therefore let the P. W. D. clear weeds in River channels. If this cannot be done free of charge, a weeding cess of 3 pies in the Rupee of assessment may be levied from raiyats for this purpose. *Mr. Srinivasamurti* (Landholder and R. M. from Hassan Taluk) stated that the proposed cess was unnecessary and that in the Hassan District there was no difficulty in weed clearing, and the Revenue authorities effectually supervised the same. If water failed in the channel, it was because water failed in the river. *Mr. Narasimhagauda* (Landholder and R. M. from Seringapatam Taluk) stated that it was chiefly raiyats, under Brahmin landholders, that failed to do their portion of weed clearing.

Dewan's reply.—It is doubtful that a cess in commutation of the liability to clear weeds would be approved by all land owners. The richer or non-laboring classes will gladly pay it, but the poorer raiyat accustomed to manual labor probably will prefer doing his bit himself. Where the channel is not apportioned among raiyats for weed clearing, such apportionment should be made, and those that cannot or will not do their portion of the work themselves or get it done, can pay for it and the Government will have it executed at their expense under Rule.

Subject No. 24.

Revision of pay of Taluk Establishments.

Summary of discussion.—The pay of officials in the Taluk Cutcherry and Shekdars and Tank Inspectors should be increased. Travelling allowance should be granted to the first and horse allowance to the second and third. The present scales were fixed many years ago, and, times and circumstances have considerably changed since then.

Mr. Sadasiva Rao (Pleader R. M. from Dodballapur) moved the question, and was supported by several other Members.

Dewan's reply.—The revision of the Taluk establishments is under the consideration of Government and something will be done as quickly as possible.

Subject No. 25.

Qualifications for Patel and Shanbhogs' offices.

Summary of discussion.—For eligibility to the offices of Shanbhog and Patel, examination should be prescribed. A property qualification should also be prescribed. At present Patels are often illiterate, oftentimes both Patels and Shanbhogs are ignorant of Government Rules and Regulations, and sometimes possessed of no property and therefore unreliable.

Dewan's reply.—Impracticable.

Subject No. 26.

Hakdar Patels and Shanbhogs to officiate by rotation.

Summary of discussion.—Hakdar Patels and Shanbhogs including coparceners in the hak should be allowed to officiate by rotation. At present partners in the right do not share the duties but oftentimes share the emoluments.